

GOOD AFTERNOON! WHAT'S HAPPENING (April 30)

Worship Services are Saturdays at 4:00 p.m., and Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Sunday School classes are at 9:15 a.m.

Welcome New Members! At the 8:00 am worship service this Sunday, the following individuals will join us as new members of Ascension: Ruth Rose, Nathan & Jaina Wohletz, Mike Schulten, and Craig & Cami Coronato. *Please give them a warm welcome!*

Pastor John Will Be Taking a Leave of Absence

My Dear Congregation:

There is a matter of great concern that I need to address with you. The issue is my marriage. When I married my wife, Marilyn, in 1979, I promised that I would honor her. I have not done that. I have honored my work, my interests, but I have placed her behind many things in my life.

I need to change my behavior and priorities. With the permission and support of the Board of Elders I will be away from the congregation from June 8 until August 8. During those two months others will preach, teach, visit and do the other duties that I have been asked to do.

I thank you for your love for Marilyn and for me. I covet your prayers for us.

Pastor John

The Memorial Service for Irene Densmore, who died on Friday, April 17, will be Monday, May 4th, at 12:00 pm, at Chapel Hill, 6601 S. Colorado Blvd., Centennial, CO 80121.

The Funeral Service for Millie Fitzpatrick, who died on Friday, April 24, will be Saturday, May 9, at 1:30 pm at Ascension.

The Voters of Ascension Lutheran Church met for a one-hour meeting on Sunday, April 26. 47 Voters signed in. President Bob Hea directed the meeting. Some of the highlights included:

- A summation of the final financial report from 2025. In a written Report Mike Price, our Treasurer told us that we received \$143,000 more than we spent last year. This year our first quarter was also strong receiving \$19,000 more than we expected.
- An update on the Patio Project. Though we had hoped to see the project completed by summer, it appears that the completion will probably be in September. The budget of about \$230,000 seems to be reliable.
- Information about our preschool. The preschool was able to stay within budget this past year and have had a good first quarter in 2026. Lisa Wert, our Board of Education Chair, had the opportunity to share information about how a number of

other preschools in our area conduct business and attract students. A number of ideas of how to grow our preschool were mentioned.

- Pastor John shared information about his leave of absence this summer. He mentioned that Rev. Dr. Larry Alb will be the primary preacher during the absence, and that Curt Engle, a licensed lay deacon, will be preaching twice during that period. The Elders are working on a visitation plan for our homebound.

The next Voter's Meeting will be on December 6, 2026 at noon.

Sunday School News: Our last class (preschool-high school ages) before summer break will be on May 10th with games, songs, crafts, and ice cream sandwiches! Also, a big THANK YOU to our wonderful Sunday school team! They are a blessing to us! We appreciate you - Lori Rolling, Jackie Viren, Katie Brehmer, Christa Kirschner, Meghan O'Connell, Krissy Schwerin, Ann Kaneko, Dianne Patterson, Jenna Lawrenz, Stephanie Roettjer, and Pastor John!

Youth (7th-12th grades) are invited to a GAME NIGHT on Friday, May 15th in the youth room! GAGA BALL PIT, Video game tournament, air hockey, sardines, and more! We'll have prizes/trophies and yummy snacks! Join us from 6:30-8:30pm! Friends invited!

This Sunday, May 3rd, from 5-7 pm, we are having a FREE swimming party! Bring the whole family and a friend for some water fun! We will be meeting at the Ridge Recreation Center (6613 S Ward St, Littleton, CO 80127). Sign up on the table in the narthex – or please RSVP to Jenna at jenna.lindeman@cune.org by Saturday, May 2nd, so that we have enough pizza! We hope to see you there!"

Mother & Daughters Tea! Please reserve next Saturday, May 9 at 10:00 am for a wonderful morning for our moms and daughters! Join us for a Mother and Daughters' Tea on May 9th at 10:00 am! The cost is \$8.00 per person. We will have a fun craft, yummy food, and refreshing beverages! Please RSVP at the table in the narthex by Wednesday, May 6th!

We have a special need for 8-10 gentlemen helpers to serve during the tea - see the sign-up for this also! Any questions, contact Jenna at jenna.lindeman@cune.org.

LADIES GUILD SALAD SOCIAL! You are Invited to a Salad Social! On Thursday, May 14, 2026 AT 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We invite you to spend time socializing and enjoying a variety of salads.

Bring: Your favorite salad to share

Your Mite Box

A friend!

We welcome our new Contemporary Worship Leader, Ann Kirkpatrick! We are pleased to announce that after a nearly two-year search, we have welcomed Ann Kirkpatrick as our new Contemporary Worship Leader for the 10:30 worship service.

Ann brings over 10 years of experience in contemporary worship leadership. She holds a BS in Education from the University of Tulsa and has a lifelong background in music,

including time as a Young Life musician, singing in summer camps and in church since age 10. In addition to her musical talents as a vocalist and guitarist, Ann is well-versed in lectionary-based service planning and other needs of this position. Professionally, she recently retired after a successful career in telecommunications for a number of companies and then at Xcel Energy.

For the next few weeks, Ann will be leading the 10:30 service alongside Stephanie and Mike as she becomes oriented. Please join us in welcoming her to our community.

JOIN OUR PRAISE TEAMS! With Ann's arrival as our new CWL, this is an excellent time to join the Youth or Agape Praise Teams. We are especially looking for a bass player to join us this year. Rehearsals take place before the service at 9:30 AM in the sanctuary, and music is provided in advance with the YouTube links to assist with preparation.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Ann Kirkpatrick at annkirkpatrick@yahoo.com or reach out to our Minister of Music and Worship, Michael Zehnder, at musicmikealc@gmail.com.

The 2026 13-Week GriefShare program at Ascension ended Tuesday, April 28 as participants joyfully honored our loved ones as we reminisced about memorable moments, characteristics that we missed, and ways to "make their memory as blessing." Fittingly, our last session was "What Do I Live For Now?" Please continue to keep all of our grievers in your prayers.

Linda and I are very thankful for the support from Pastor Larson, Church Council, and Dawn Munson as well as our congregation which enables this special and important program. We look forward to starting the 2026-27 Ascension GriefShare program next fall. We also welcome new volunteers to our program. Please contact Sherry at hitz2@comcst.net for more information.

Thank You, Co-Facilitators: Linda Olsen and Sherry Hitztaler

"God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

Link for Worship Service with Concordia University-Seward If you missed the special worship service in March with Concordia University A Capella Choir, or if you would like to hear and see it again, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/8M-2yWcq14E>

Wednesday Evening Bible Class Pastor Larson's Bible Class meets on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00 pm. This coming Wednesday, join us for a new study of the Book of Titus in the Fellowship Hall.

HAAT Force's Program of Resource Friday HAAT Force's Resource Day continues on Fridays. Here's an updated list of items their clients could use:

Belts

Mens Winter Jackets

Boys 10/12, 14/16 pants and shirts

(we are seeing more children these days than we have previously seen)

Womens Pants - Small and Medium

T-Shirts - L and XL - they seem to like more generic shirts

Mens Pants 32, 33, 34

Please place items in the HAAT Force box. Thanks in advance for your help.
Questions? Contact Ann Kaneko, 720.289.6782 (cell), kanekoa43@gmail.com.

Online Auction to Benefit Mission Experience in Haiti From Rev. Mike Paulison:
"Despite all the troubles in Haiti, God's provision remains constant. To follow God's call, we need your help!

We will be hosting an online auction as a fundraiser this year. We are requesting donations of various items, such as a themed gift basket, handmade craft, artwork, weekend away, house cleaning, lawn mowing, home chef for date night, tickets or passes to places or events, etc. (Please make all donations a minimum of \$50.00 in retail value).

Please send a photo, description, dimensions, estimated value, as well as your name / contact info (we don't mind advertising if you have a business!), suggested opening bid and minimum bid (if needed) to sarah@missionexperience.org. Submissions are needed by the end of September."

The Lutheran Chorale will be having their final concert of the season with a patriotic salute to the 250th anniversary of the United States. Included are a number of songs from the Civil War as well as a classic medley that includes all military themes as well as George M. Cohan tunes. Members of the Chorale will play with trumpets, drums and even a violin! Sunday, May 3, 2026. As always, the concerts are free, but donations are gratefully accepted.

2:30 p.m., Mt. Zion Lutheran Church
500 Drake Street
Denver, CO

6:30 p.m., Wheat Ridge
Evangelical Lutheran Church
8600 W. 38th Avenue
Wheat Ridge, CO

Extended Day Preschool When does the moon stop eating? (when it's full). How do meteors stay clean? (they shower). 🌈 We had a lot of fun with Air and Space this week. 🚀 How fortunate that real astronauts flew into space in a real rocket just a few weeks ago. Many of our kiddos saw pictures and/or footage of the event. It is easy to take for granted the air we breathe and the stars that shine at night. Of course, there are scientific reasons as to "why" and "how," but we know the real and beautiful reason..."In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

Have a spectacular weekend and thank God for the rain He has given us lately.

☁️ Grace & Peace, Meg Stenman

Ascension Church Patio Project

This spring, let us work together to complete this wonderful outdoor area where we will work together, meet together and share in the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus

Christ. Please make your donation payable to Ascension and denote the funds for "Project Peter".

Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

The Capital Campaign Grounds Upgrade Committee: Bob Hea, Art Gordon, Kim McCormick, Chuck Mielke, Terry Utecht, Kathleen Wucherpfenning Larry Nisbet (Campaign Committee Chair)

Greetings Dear Brothers and Sisters of Ascension, many heartfelt thanks to you all for your prayers for my wellbeing as I underwent my major back surgery! Your many cards and well wishes were also a blessing in my recovery...I still am getting better with every day, and am ever grateful for the Lord's healing and love during this time. In His care, Anita Baresel

Save the date! VBS is scheduled for June 1-5, 2026. Our theme this year is "Rainforest Falls." Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to have a relationship with God, their Creator, a safe place in life's storms.

Register here: <https://vbspro.events/p/alcvacationbibleschool>

Ascension Quilters meets each Friday in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 12:30 pm, all abilities for more information please call Jackie Adams, 720-877-0162

Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel: The group is studying 1st and 2nd Corinthians, focusing on a chapter a week. You are welcome to join them each Wednesday at 10:00 am in Room 106.

Saturday Afternoon Bible Study We meet each Saturday at 3:00 pm, for our Lighthouse Bible study on the book of Acts, with a focus on evangelism. Email Curt at Kengle0920@gmail.com

Young Adult Bible Study The Young Adult Bible Study will meet Friday, May 15, at 6:30 pm at Jenna and Michael Lawrenz' house, for their Bible study by Louie Giglio. For more information, contact Jenna: 303-913-3512 jenna.lindeman@cune.org

A good gift plan within an estate includes inheritance for family and gifts to ministry. Some might consider this a difficult task. How does an LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor help? A Counselor encourages you in the process. There are many reasons why you have not created your estate plan or reviewed your existing plan. The counselor's encouragement can be that extra spark to get you moving, completing your plan. Your Ascension Gift Planning Counselor enjoys this task. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

Flowers on the Altar this weekend are given by John and Lori Rolling, in joyful celebration of their 47th Wedding Anniversary!

Prayers: For the family of Millie Fitzpatrick, following her death on April 24; For Barb Bader, who will have hip surgery on May 4; For Susan Sherrer-Firth, who will have a kidney procedure on May 5; For the family and friends of Irene Densmore, who died on Friday, April 17; For Gwen Geisler and her family, at the death of her husband, Ed, on Monday, April 20; For Laura Banko's twin sister, Linda, who is in the hospital ICU; For Hank Peepgrass; For Mike Price, as he recovers from ankle surgery; For Judy and Roger Koester's grandson Dale's father-in-law, Bill Tibbs, in Riley, Texas, and for his wife Pam, as she cares for Bill and her mother at home; For Bill Burchett, now home from the hospital; For Don Nelson, recovering from a fall; For Judy Mihok, that her health improves; For Jim Bame, following foot surgery; For Mike Zehnder, as he considers next steps for his back pain; For Michele Yowell, C.J. Earhart, and Jim Nichols, as they go through cancer treatments; For wisdom and discernment for our leaders, that we might have peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Haiti, and Venezuela; For God to send His Holy Spirit for strengthening of faith and witness.

Attendance	Service Time	Attendees	
Saturday, 4/25	4:00 pm	57	
Sunday, 4/26	8:00 am	116	
	10:30 am	80	
			Total: 253

Online Views (as of April 27) for April 12: 145 views.

Stewardship	Apr. 25-26, 2026	Year-to-Date (YTD)
Budgeted Revenue	\$13,000.00	\$221,000.00
Received Amount	\$7,754.00	\$256,905.00
Project Peter 2026	\$125.00	\$ 24,233.00

Calendar (Saturday, May 2 – Sunday, May 10):

Sat. (5-2)	9:30 am	Ladies Guild Board Meeting
	9:30 am	Congregational Life Meeting
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (5-3)	8:00 am	Traditional Worship w Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Pool Party at the Ridge Rec Center
Mon. (5-4)	8:30 am-1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
Tues. (5-5)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	9:30 am	Ladies' Bible Study
Weds. (5-6)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	10:00 am	Bible Study with Pastor Ginkel
	11:00 am	Book Club
	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Pastor John

	6:00 pm	Confirmation
Thurs. (5-7)	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Extended Day Preschool
	1:30 pm	Koinonia
Fri. (5-8)		Set up for Mother-Daughter Tea
Sat. (5-9)	10:00 am	Mother-Daughter Tea
	1:30 pm	Funeral Service – Millie Fitzpatrick
	3:00 pm	Saturday Bible Study
	4:00 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
Sun. (5-10)		MOTHER'S DAY
	8:00 am	Traditional Worship w Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
	10:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion